

# Smokefree Multiunit Housing

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# CDC State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation System

- “Each year, more than 41,000 nonsmoking adults and 400 infants die from exposure to secondhand smoke.
- States have made substantial progress in protecting nonsmoking adults from secondhand smoke exposure in indoor worksites and public places through state and local laws and voluntary smoking restrictions introduced by employers.
- However, many people remain exposed to secondhand smoke in areas not covered by these policies—including homes. **The home is the primary source of secondhand smoke exposure among children.”**

# Secondhand Smoke

## Six Major Conclusions of the US Surgeon General

1. Many millions of Americans, both children and adults, are still exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes and workplaces despite substantial progress in tobacco control.
2. Secondhand smoke causes premature death and disease in children and in adults who do not smoke.
3. Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome, acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma.

# Secondhand Smoke

## Six Major Conclusions of the US Surgeon General (continued)

4. Exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer.
5. The scientific evidence indicates that **there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.**
6. Eliminating smoking in indoor spaces fully protects nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke. Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposures of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke.

# Health Equity and Smokefree

- Two out of every 5 children who live in rental housing (including 7 out of 10 African American children) are exposed to secondhand smoke.
- Black children are 4 times more likely to be admitted to the hospital for asthma, as compared to non-Hispanic white children.
- Children exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke exposure are at increased risk for acute lower respiratory tract infections, such as bronchitis.

# Smokefree Housing

- State laws to prohibit smoking in the living areas of government and private multiunit housing facilities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia has been established as a Healthy People 2020 objective.
- HUD Rule required all Public Housing Authorities to adopt a smokefree policy as of July 30, 2018. The policy must include all indoor areas, including individual living units, common areas, administrative office buildings, and outdoor areas within 25 feet of those areas.

# Considerations for Model Policy

- Products?
  - Traditional Tobacco Products (cigarette, pipe, cigar, hookah, etc.)
  - Electronic Smoking Devices
  - Marijuana
- Outside
  - Prohibited on patios and balconies
  - Prohibited within 25' of the building

# Covid-19 & Secondhand Smoke

- Nationwide, there has been an increased concern about secondhand smoke in multiunit buildings.
- Virginia Tobacco Control Program has received complaints, including:
  - Live in “smokefree” building that allows smoking on patios and balconies,
  - Nonsmoker testing positive for nicotine,
  - Non-smoking mixed-use building allowed a cigar store to open up below residences (similar issue with restaurant patios),
  - Carlyle Towers, by-law change – 549 unit building with 74.9% yes and 4% no.



# Benefits for Landlords & Owners

- Reduces the cleaning and maintenance costs—and extra turn-over time—that comes with renovating a smoke-damaged unit.
- Compared to smokefree units, cleaning and refurbishing costs can be up to \$3,000 more in units with heavy smoking. (2009)
- Allowing smoking in your building can increase the risk of fire. Nationally, fires caused by cigarette smoking result in over \$300 million in property loss each year. (2012)
- People increasingly want their living environment to be smokefree to protect their health, and are looking for smokefree housing options.

# Thank You!

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